

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14914 291429Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 291348Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4277

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET BORDER; WORLD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

REF: MOSCOW 14848

1. SUMMARY: CHINESE EMBOFF SAYS SOVIET RIVER BORDER PRO-
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14914 291429Z

POSAL DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH, THAT ILICHEV MAY SOON

RETURN TO PEKING, AND THAT THERE IS A SOVIET FACTION WHICH FAVORS CONCESSIONS TO CHINA IN ORDER TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA BEFORE THE AMERICANS DO. END SUMMARY.

2. CHINESE EMBOFF (LI TE-PIAO, A FOURTEEN-YEAR VETERAN OF MOSCOW) GAVE US FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS NOV 28:

A. SOVIETS HAVE, AS REPORTED REFTEL, MADE PROPOSAL ON RIVER BOUNDARIES WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF ACKNOWLEDGING A NUMBER OF CONTESTED ISLANDS AS CHINESE.

B. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD LEAVE HEI-HSIA-TZU (BLINDMAN'S) ISLAND (WHICH SOURCE DESCRIBED AS MORE LIKE A PENINSULA), NEAR KHABAROVSK, ON THE SOVIET SIDE. THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE, WHO INSIST THAT THE ISLAND MUST BE RETURNED TO THEM.

C. THE SOVIET RIVER PROPOSAL IS NOT A SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH LARGE NUMBER OF DISPUTED LAND BOUNDARIES IN THE WEST.

D. CHINESE EXPECT THAT SOVIET NEGOTIATOR ILICHEV WILL SOON BE SENT BACK TO PEKING, BUT IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING HE WILL NEED TO HAVE SOME FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN HIS POCKET.

E. CHINESE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A SOVIET FACTION WHICH FAVORS MAKING CONCESSIONS TO THE CHINESE VIEWPOINT IN ORDER TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA "BEFORE THE AMERICANS GET OUT OF TAIWAN" AND SUCCEED IN FULLY NORMALIZING US-CHINESE RELATIONS. SOURCE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON COMPOSITION OF THIS ALLEGED FACTION NOR ON ITS RELATIVE STRENGTH VERSUS OTHER GROUP WHICH BELIEVES THAT NO CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO CHINA.

3. ANOTHER CHINESE EMBOFF TOLD US NOV 27 THAT SOVIET RESPONSE TO CHINESE NATIONAL DAY GREETING (PUBLISHED NOV 25) WAS INADEQUATE BECAUSE IT FAILED TO MENTION

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 14914 291429Z

BORDER SETTLEMENT, THE MAJOR ISSUE IDENTIFIED IN THE PRC NOV 7 MESSAGE.

4. LI SAID THAT SOVIETS ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO CONVENE A WORLD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE, IN 1974 IF POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE (AS WOULD BE EXPECTED) WILL NOT ONLY REFUSE TO ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE BUT ARE ACTIVELY WORKING AGAINST ITS CONVENING. HE CONFIRMED THAT PCF

CHIEF MARCHAIS HAD AGREED DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT TO
SUPPORT CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.
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